

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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R 232330Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4859

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PE

SUBJECT: LEFTIST PRESS PITS CIA AGAINST PERU

1. NEWSPAPER ARTICLES CRITICIZING THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT HAVE APPEARED RECENTLY IN THE VENEZUELAN AND AMERICAN PRESS. THE GOVERNMENT-INFLUENCED PERUVIAN PRESS HAS RESPONDED BY CHARGING THAT THE CIA IS MASTER-MINDING A CAMPAIGN TO MALIGN PERU.

2. ON MARCH 30, A TENDENTIOUS ARTICLE APPEARED IN RESUMEN, A VENEZUELAN PUBLICATION. IT WAS REPRINTED ON APRIL 16 IN THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED LA CRONICA, WHICH SUGGESTED THAT RESUMEN'S DIRECTOR WAS CONNECTED WITH THE CIA THROUGH AN UNCLE. LA CRONICA SAID THAT THE ARTICLE DENIGRATED PRESIDENT VELASCO, WHOM RESUMEN CHARACTERIZED AS GRAVELY ILL AND INVOLVED IN A FRUSTRATED ATTEMPT TO ELIMINATE MORALES BERMUDEZ FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION. VELASCO HIMSELF REACTED INDIGNANTLY TO THE ARTICLE DURING HIS APRIL 11 PRESS CONFERENCE. ACCORDING TO THE NEXT DAY'S LA PRENSA, VELASCO SAID THAT IT APPEARS THAT AMBASSADORS ARE ONLY GOOD FOR COCKTAIL DRINKING BECAUSE THE LEAST THAT THIS ONE (AMBASSADOR TO VENEZUELA BARRIOS LLONA) SHOULD HAVE DONE WAS TO CHALLENGE

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RESUMEN'S DIRECTOR TO A DUEL. FOREIGN MINISTER DE LA FLOR POINTED

OUT QUICKLY THAT BARRIOS HAD ALREADY DENIED RESUMEN'S INFORMATION. HOWEVER, PERU'S FRIENDS IN VENEZEULA WENT FURTHER WHEN 500 OF THEM SIGNED A MANIFESTO ALERTING THE PUBLIC TO A CAMPAGIN AGAINST PERU FINANCED BY THE CIA. PRO-COMMUNIST EXPRESO PUBLISHED A CUBAN PRENSA LATINA REPORT ON APRIL 21 CLAIMING THAT 500 PARLIMENTARIANS, UNION LEADERS, INTELLECTUALS, BUSINESSMEN AND OTHER INDIVIDUALS SIGNED THE COMMUNIQUE, WHICH INTER ALIA SAID THAT RESUMEN LEADS THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST PERU. EXPRESO'S BANNER HEADLINE READ "PERU ALERTED. CIA ACTIVATES ITS CAMPAIGN." THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED CRONICA WAS LESS HYSTERICAL AS IT REPORTED A FRANCE PRESSE ITEM THAT 500 VENEZUELAN SAID THEY SUPPORTED THE PERUVIAN REVOLUTION WHICH WAS FACING "CONTINENTAL ESCALATION" AIMED AT ITS OVERTHROW. AFP MENTIONED LUIS BELTRAN PRIETO AND JESUS PAZ GULURRAGA OF THE MOVIMIENTO ELECTORAL DE PUEBLO AND SOCIALIST JOSE VICENTE RANGEL AMONG THE SIGNATORIES.

3. IN ADDITION, ARTICLES HAVE BEEN APPEARING LATELY IN THE AMERICAN PRESS EXAGGERATING SOVIET PENETRATION OF PERU. IN RESPONSE TO ONE OF THESE ARTICLES, ON APRIL 23 EL CORREO (WHICH TRIES TO OUTDO THE REST OF THE LOCAL PRESS IN DISCHARGING BILE AGAINST THE U.S.) PUBLISHED AN EDITORIAL COLUMN ENTITLED "NEW CIA AGGRESSION AGAINST PERU." THE COLUMN COMPLAINS ABOUT AN ADVERTISEMENT APPEARING IN APRIL 15 NEW YORK TIMES AND PAID BY "RADIO FREE AMERICAS" AND PRODUCES BY THE "AMERICAN SECURITY COUNCIL," WELL KNOWN AS A FRONT FOR THE SINISTER CIA. CORREO REPORTS THAT THE ADVERTISEMENT WAS ENTITLED "NEW SOVIET BEACHHEAD IN THE AMERICAS?" AND OUTLINED ALLEGED SOVIET MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO PERU (E.G., SA-3, SA-6 AND SA-7 MISSILES) AND STATED THAT PERU HAS HOSTILE INTENTIONS VERSUS CHILE. CORREO COMMENTS "KISSINGER NOT ONLY AVOIDS DIALOGUE WITH THE PERUVIAN REVOLUTION, DEMONSTRATING TO THE CONTINENT THAT HIS REITERATED CALLS FOR A NEW DIALOGUE ARE PREJUDICED AND SELF-INTERESTED; BUT THE CIA ALSO, WHOSE OPERATIONS IN PERU DURING THE FEBRUARY 5 EVENTS (CIVIL DISORDERS) LEAVE NO DOUBT, IS AT IT AGAIN WITH THIS PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN WHICH IS ABSOLUTELY A LIE AND HAS EVIDENT INTERVENTIONIST INTENTIONS." (THE FOREGOING CORREO GRAMMEAR MAKES AS MUCH SENSE AS THE NEWSPAPER COMMENTARY.)

4. COMMENT: THE LOCAL LEFTIST PRESS DOES ITS BEST TO PROVOKE GOP IRE AGAINST THE US IN GENERAL AND CIA IN PARTICULAR.
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